

Safeguarding Leicester's Children

Newsletter
July 2017, Issue 1

Welcome from the Independent Chair

Welcome to the Leicester Safeguarding Children Board newsletter, it is my pleasure as Independent Chair to welcome you to the first issue of our newsletter.

This newsletter provides an update on current safeguarding issues that are relevant to all practitioners and managers who work in Leicester city. It also provides links and signposts to both cross county initiatives and national documents which you will find helpful in your work.

If you would like any more information, or even want to contribute or give us feedback, do let us know.

Peer Review of Leicester Safeguarding Children Board: How are we doing?

The LSCB has recently undergone an external Peer Review which reviewed the recommendations made by Ofsted following their inspection in January 2015. The review stated that the effectiveness of the LSCB is much improved and is considered to be meeting its statutory obligations. The following are some key headlines from the review.

- There is a sufficient programme of work to scrutinise and challenge the robustness of the safeguarding arrangements to protect children.
- Significant progress has been made in capturing the voices of children and frontline practitioners.
- There is a robust quality assurance and performance management framework which enables the LSCB to be in a much improved position to provide robust and rigorous evaluation and analysis of local performance as a result of the information it receives and is able to challenge/influence individual partners to make improvements within their agency to areas of identified risk to the LSCB multi-agency safeguarding system.

Welcome to the LSCB Manager

Beverley Czyn, the new LSCB manager, took over in April 2017 from Janet Russell to whom we would like to say a **Big Thank You** for taking the LSCB through a challenging improvement journey following the Ofsted Inspection in 2015.

Beverley brings vast experience of working in LSCBs across the country and 'hit the ground running' to take the LSCB forward in new challenging and uncharted waters following Royal Assent of the Children and Social Care Act 2017.

Beverley is excited to join LSCB and Leicester City during such interesting times and is looking forward to working with the LSCB team in taking it through the next phase of its journey, developing the action plan from its recent successful Peer Review.

- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2016 (JSNA) and Police and Crime Commissioners Strategy/ Plan will add value to the LSCBs performance information.
- The LSCB is more able to articulate the profile of children and young people in its local area and can make links to vulnerability and risks relating to health, crime and safeguarding.

Following a presentation of the report findings to the Leicester City Council Improvement Board (LCCIB) it was agreed by the LCCIB that significant progress has been made since the LSCB received their Ofsted judgement in 2015 and the LSCB was now fit for purpose. This is positive news which I wanted to share with you and to thank you for your contribution to achievement.

Transitions arrangements from the LCCIB to the LSCB are being agreed and the LSCB will take responsibility for monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of the Front Door, Early Help and Child Sexual Exploitation within Leicester City. It is envisaged that this will continue post Ofsted and hopefully that following a positive inspection that other responsibilities will transition over to the LSCB.

Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), Trafficking & Missing



The Leicester Safeguarding Children Board (LSCB) website has been updated with a range of resources and updates on Child Sexual Exploitation. Practitioners are encouraged to explore the website which can be found [here](#). Highlights include the following items:

New Criminal Offence – 3rd April 2017

Practitioners are asked to note the introduction of a new criminal offence.

Section 67 of the Serious Crime Act (offence of Sexual Communication with a Child) comes into force on 3 April 2017. The Ministry of Justice Circular No. 2017/01 can be found here: https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/604931/circular-commencement-s67-serious-crime-act-2015.pdf

In summary this is an offence carrying a maximum sentence of two years imprisonment. The Act inserts a new section 15A into the Sexual Offences Act 2003. The offence criminalises conduct where an adult intentionally communicates (for example, by e-mail, text message, written note or orally) with a child under 16 (whom the adult does not reasonably believe to be aged 16 or over) for the purpose of obtaining sexual gratification. Scenarios likely to be covered by the

offence include talking sexually to a child via a chat room or sending sexually explicit text messages to a child as well as inviting a child to communicate sexually (irrespective of whether the invitation is itself sexual). The new offence is designed to ensure that it does not criminalise, for example, ordinary social or educational interactions between children and adults or communications between young people themselves. The term “sexual gratification” is already used in the context of the offences at sections 11 and 12 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 which prohibit engaging in sexual activity in the presence of a child and causing a child to watch a sexual act respectively. It is anticipated that this wording would support a prosecution where either a defendant made a relevant communication in order to obtain immediate sexual gratification or the obtaining of such gratification was part of a longer term plan (grooming) or both.

Chelsea's Choice - new tour planned for Autumn 2017

This hard hitting production raises awareness of CSE, what makes a healthy relationship and how to stay safe on the internet. Chelsea's Choice is for audiences from 12 years of age and is also very effective in raising awareness in adults. The play will tour Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland again during autumn 2017. The play is 40 minutes long followed by a 20-30 minute plenary session exploring issues raised in the play. Further information, including how to book can be found [here](#).

Kayleigh's Love Story

Kayleigh Haywood from Leicestershire began speaking to a man she had never met, on 31 October 2015. Over the course of 13 days they exchanged 2643 messages. He told the 15-year-old all the things many teenage girls want to hear. He told her she was beautiful, how much he cared for her and that she was special. He was grooming Kayleigh, along with two other young girls he had also been speaking to. But it was Kayleigh that finally agreed to his requests to spend the night of Friday 13 November 2015 at his house. She spent the next day with him too, and in the early hours of Sunday 15 November, having been held against her will by him and by his next door neighbour, Kayleigh was raped and murdered by this neighbour.

Please click [here](#) to access the Police news item on the film 'Kayleigh's Love Story' made in memory of Kayleigh and to warn children and parents of the dangers of online grooming.

Private fostering – what is this?

A private fostering arrangement is one that is made without the involvement of the local authority to look after a child under the age of 16 (or under 18 if disabled) by someone other than a parent or close relative, for 28 days or more and can include those living with extended family members. So, this could be a child living with people as stated below:

Private Fostering includes a child living with:	Private Fostering does not include a child living with:
godparents	brothers
great-grandparents	sisters
great aunts or uncles	grandparents
family friends	aunts
step parents where a couple isn't married or in a civil partnership	uncles
cousins	step parents where a couple is married or in a civil partnership
a host family which is caring for a child from overseas while they are in education here	mother
	father
	children and young people who are being looked-after by the local authority

It's a legal duty for parents or the private foster carer to notify the local authority of whenever a child is not living with a close relative. This should be done six weeks before the arrangement takes place or immediately if it is unplanned or already happening. This is so the local authority can work with private foster carers to keep children safe and also support anyone who is privately fostering.

To find out more have a look at our website [here](#) which includes information leaflets for carers (in English, Gujarati, Polish, Punjabi, Somali and Urdu), and professionals, as well as links to Somebody Else's Child and the [LSCB multiagency safeguarding procedure referring to private fostering](#), so you can get an insight into private fostering.

LSCB Shadow Board/Young Advisors: Do you know who we are and what do we do?

We are the LSCB Young Advisors based in Leicester. We are a group of young people who help organisations Youth Proof their practices, policies and strategies. We help them to understand how to attract and maintain the interest of young people, making sure their thoughts and feelings are considered in decisions that affect them. We encourage innovation to solve local challenges, bringing power and decision making into local communities. We are experienced in delivering research and consultations to ensure that the findings relate to the needs of young people. We also help deliver training, coaching and mentoring to people of all ages. We engage directly with other young people to get them involved in neighbourhood improvements and we advocate on behalf of young people in order to feedback on what has changed as a result of our work to ensure that everyone has a sense of civic involvement. Below are some examples of some commissions that we have worked on.



LSCB Business Plan Youth Proof

The LSCB Shadow board was asked to youth proof the LSCB Business Plan. The group did this, selecting the key messages and actions that they thought would be relevant to young people. They presented their version to the full board, and it has been agreed to progress this piece of work into the next Business Planning cycle and sync it with the redevelopment of the young people web pages.

LSCB Website Youth Proof

The LSCB shadow board recently undertook a full youth proof of the new LSCB webpages. This included both desktop and mobile sites. The young advisors produced a comprehensive report that they presented to the board and agreed action points to meet with the website developers to progress the Young Advisors recommendations.

Community Safety Team (Leicester City Council)

Young Advisors were commissioned for a quick turnaround to consult with young people from the Belgrave and Spinney Hill area of Leicester in relation to getting young people's views on crime and to explore methods of creating campaigns to engage with young people around Street Crime, and what the best method of getting the messages across to young people is. We are currently youth proofing a Knife Crime campaign logo.



Oral Health Commission (Public Health)

Young Advisors were commissioned by Public Health Leicester to consult with young people around Oral Health messages, which resulted in an online survey to obtain young people's views and a report presented to the steering group.

Children, Young People and Family Centres (Mystery Shopping- Leicester City Council) How Will You Hear me?

We were commissioned in August 2015 to mystery shop and formally inspect a number of Children Young People and Family Centres. This was followed with a re-commission to deliver some training to staff. A number of short videos to share an experience where professionals have intervened, the impact of that intervention and, how young people were listened to were produced. A resource tool was also created and has been used to deliver training to professionals ranging from Social Workers, Family Support workers and other professionals.



Radical V. Radicalised (Prevent) #ReclaimRadical

The Young Advisors have created a number of short viral adverts to encourage conversations around Prevent and extreme views between professionals and young people, and have also developed a toolkit for professionals to go with the films. Within the toolkit Young Advisors have looked at a number of online resources in relation to radicalisation and have given a critique of these resources and how well they are tailored towards young people.

Safety Tool (Leicester City Council)

A newly created tool that has been piloted with professionals, it aids them during supervision when working with young people on a one-one basis. It puts the young person at the centre of everything and allows the professional to reflect on practice. Young advisors have been asked to create feedback on the draft, create a 'How to' use guide and help with the launch.

Healthwatch Leicester City have commissioned the LSCB Young Advisors group to engage with young people about their experiences of transition from young people's health services to adults health services. Young Advisors will create a number of focus groups as well as a questionnaire to gather young people's views and experiences. They will then report their findings to the Healthwatch steering group.

Healthwatch Leicester will also train Young people to enter and view (inspect a number of health services). The initiative is currently live and adults are trained to undertake this. Leicester are delivering similar training to Young people with an aim of the young people to undertake the practice.

Domestic Violence Sexual Violence- Leicester City Council

Young Advisors have been commissioned to mystery shop Domestic violence support services for young people. They will also help in creating DSVS champions and support the adults in launching a Young Peoples engagement event.



LSCB Multi-Agency Safeguarding Frontline Practitioners Group: Who are we and why do we meet?

I am Helena Mitchell (Carefree Team Manager at Barnardo's) and I have had the pleasure in co-chairing the LSCB Multi-agency Safeguarding Frontline Practitioners Group with Kate Wells (Principle Social Worker, Children Social Care and Early help Service) for some time now.

I wanted to reflect on my experiences of getting involved, who the group is and why I give my time to be involved. I felt the group would benefit the children and families we work with, myself as a practitioner and my team, as time is precious to us all. I can honestly say it has been a fantastic opportunity and a real pleasure to be involved with this group.

The LSCB Multi-agency Safeguarding Frontline Practitioners Group is made up of a wide range of practitioners from different services including: Primary school heads, Children Social Care and Early Service, CCG, LPT (Health Visitors, School Nurses), UHL, Youth Offending Service, Child Abuse Investigation Unit, STAR, IDSV and Border House.

Throughout the year our aim has been to share information, update members and share learning from a range of different sources. We have also been able to reflect on what successes we are experiencing and also where there are challenges we continue to face. I feel this has given frontline practitioners a voice and an ability to contribute

to effecting positive change in safeguarding children.

Lively and interesting discussions covering various different topics such as LSCB multi-agency audits focused on Early Help, Pre-birth, Neglect, Domestic Violence and procedures including Escalation of Concerns, have enabled the group to share learning about relevant themes and topics.

The supervision and reflective practice topic has enabled the group to explore how practitioners feel about supervision, the experience, quality and sharing good practice from different services. Updates and learning from Serious Case Review/Learning Reviews have been regularly shared by colleagues in the LSCB office to enable practitioners to cascade learning throughout their services and organisations.

Practitioners have brought a wealth of experience, knowledge and understanding to the group and, as a practitioner,

I feel I have been able to share this learning with my team and students.

I am looking forward to seeing more people become involved and for services to extend an invitation to other professionals/practitioners who would like to become involved.

Key messages from the LSCB multi-agency audits: What do we need to do more of?

The quality of multi-agency safeguarding practice is evaluated through LSCB multi-agency audits. During 2016-2017, we conducted audits on FGM, CSE, Neglect, Early Help and Pre-birth and 44 cases were audited (including LLR joint audits). The audits show that practice is variable with pockets of good practice and areas requiring further improvement. The following [key themes](#) emerged from the audits. Summaries of the audits have been disseminated widely for learning and are available on the [LSCB website](#)

The Board agreed that partner agencies take forward the recommendations coming out of the audits and assure that Board that these have been followed through.

Key messages: Overall there was pockets of good practice but there was a need to do more to improve practice to safeguard children and these are stated in key themes below

Aspect/theme	What do we need to do more of?
Management oversight/supervision	Our managers need to continue to support us and make sure that our practice is compliant to procedures and ensure that we are using tools/research to inform our practice to meet the intended outcomes for safeguarding children. They need to challenge our practice and offer reflective supervision to support and improve our practice. <i>There was evidence of management oversight resulting in good casework practice but this was inconsistent.</i>
Recording full and accurate details	We need to make sure that full and accurate details of child/family members are recorded. <i>The audit identified instances where information, particularly around religion was missing, discrepancy in dates of birth and spellings of names as well as recording information in the wrong report.</i>
Compliance to procedures	We all need to be aware of and work to relevant procedures that inform our work, including the LLR LSCB multi-agency safeguarding procedures to ensure that we are working to required standard and procedures. Our managers need to check that we are doing so. <i>The audits identified evidence of compliance to procedures in some cases but not all and across the partnership.</i>
History of involvement	What do I know and who should I talk to? We need to make sure that when working with child/families we are aware of and make a connection to all the previous involvement that has taken place within our service/agency and to record this accurately. We also need to share and be aware of, information held by partners to help develop a fuller picture. This is crucial as it informs current intervention and meeting of intended outcomes, and in some cases could reduce potential for drift and delay. <i>There was evidence of the history of the child/family's involvement in some cases, but not all. In some cases there was insufficient exploration and connection to previous history to fully understand the current situation and the child's lived experience – impacting on meeting intended outcomes. There was also a lack of fully recording previous involvement resulting in gaps.</i>
Voice of the Child	We need to embed the voice of the child and their lived experience (irrespective of their age) into our practice. This needs to be at the centre of our work with children/families. This means that we engage with children/families, including; very young children, those who require interpreters and their family members, including fathers. <i>The audits found that engaging and obtaining the views of children/families, including the use of interpreters, was variable, with evidence of very good practice as well as poor practice in this area. Practice in involving fathers was inconsistent.</i>
Referrals	We need to be aware of, understand and use the LLR LSCB Thresholds and provide comprehensive & key information when making referrals to Children's Social Care. Be aware of what is going to happen next in relation to safeguarding the child. <i>The audit found that there was an understanding and application of the LLR LSCB Thresholds and timely referrals made in some cases, but this was not consistent. Children's Social Care needs to feedback their decision on the referral to the referrer and referrers need to obtain feedback, if not received.</i>
Assessments and Plans	We need to make sure that our assessments are timely, robust and informed by relevant tools and research. They must include contribution from multi-agency partners and CYPF, and include SMART plans. These must be shared and understood by CYP and their parents. <i>There was evidence in some audits of timely and robust assessment, use of tools/research and SMART plans, but not in all. There was a lack of awareness amongst practitioners within partner agencies that a single assessment conducted by Children's Social Care is actually a multi-agency assessment, which partners should contribute to.</i>
Multi-agency working and meetings	We need to continue to work well together and ensure that multi-agency meetings are timely, key relevant practitioners are invited (with sufficient notice) and contribute to the meetings, and are administered well (accurate minutes/notes of the meetings are taken and distributed). <i>Although good multi-agency working was identified in the audits, there were issues in relation to key partners not being invited, inaccurate recording of meetings and circulation of minutes/notes of the meetings. Plans were not always SMART and did not meet intended outcomes in some cases. Not all strategy meetings were compliant to procedures as there were some in which not all key partners were invited and plans were not SMART.</i>
Escalation of concerns	We need to be aware of and use escalation procedures, including the LLR LSCB Resolving Disagreement and Escalation of Concerns procedure when we are concerned about a decision relating to safeguarding a child. Where we have escalated concerns we need to obtain feedback on the outcome of the escalation and be clear about what the interim safety arrangements are for the child. <i>Escalation of concerns was variable - in some cases there was awareness of and use of escalation procedures but in others, there was lack of escalation or timely escalation. For example, in the early help audit in some cases, practitioners awaited the Multi-Agency Support Panel (MASP) to step-up a case rather than stepping up the case as soon as this was identified.</i>

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland LSCBs neglect toolkit: Are you using it?

The recent LLR neglect on-line survey and deep dive multi-agency case file audit found that the neglect toolkit has not been implemented and used as well as expected across the partnership. It is crucial the practitioners use the neglect toolkit to identify and evidence toolkit to inform assessment and planning for safeguarding children and to achieve intended outcomes. The toolkit should be used at any point during the child's journey through safeguarding including multi-agency meetings. Agencies are recommended to promote and encourage use of the neglect toolkit by practitioners in their agencies and increase management/supervision oversight on the neglect and use of the toolkit. We aim to re-conduct the on-line survey in 6 months' time.

Where the neglect toolkit was used, practitioners found it useful, particularly in evidencing assessments, and explaining neglect to parents and what needs to be done:

- ✓ *Used in professional meeting with nursery and SLF worker to join up thinking and process to outcome*
- ✓ *I used the toolkit to formalise my thinking around an issue that was going on with a child regarding eating and parent's ability to provide regular, nutritious food, at times and in formats suitable for a child of his age. It fitted into the yellow/amber areas of the kit but, as it was already being monitored by health and myself, we didn't need to take it any further.*
- ✓ *I manage an early help team within children's services and this tool has supported myself and staff to provide evidence to parents who themselves have suffered neglect and been unable to identify their children are now suffering neglect. This has allowed us to challenge and show concerns, which, in turn has allowed them to access support from us and other services to change their situation*
- ✓ *It showed us areas where things needed to be improved and identified areas where things were better within the home*
- ✓ *We were able at a home visit with social workers and an early intervention health visitor to identify the areas of risk that I was concerned about – factual scores that support holistic assessment and need for early and timely intervention.*
- ✓ *Although not used in its entirety, it definitely helped this parent to improve in the areas needed and this child gained weight and got back on track with his development.*

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland LSCBs multi-agency safeguarding procedures: Are you using them?

LSCBs have the responsibility to develop policies and procedures for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children with their local authority area in a range of areas relating to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, including thresholds for intervention. In Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland there is a joint on-line procedure manual agreed by both the Leicester and Leicestershire & Rutland LSCBs which applies to practitioners across the 3 local authorities. Procedures/guidance included range from how to make a referral, escalate a concern to who to contact and are available at: <http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>

Procedures are updated twice a year (usually scheduled for March and September), other than updates resulting from Serious Case Reviews/Learning Reviews which are updated as soon as possible. Recent local SCRs/Learning reviews found that the procedures are good but compliance to these is 'poor'. It is crucial that practitioners use these procedures as they are aimed at helping to safeguard children and promote their welfare, and reduce practice that does not protect the child as well as expected.

Access to the LLR LSCB multi-agency safeguarding procedures has increased from April 2016 – March 2017 as shown by Google Analytical data. There were 34,026 users in 2016-2017 (compared to 23,182, 2015-2016); 42,911 sessions (compared to 29,825 sessions, 2015-2016) and 79,156 page views (compared to 61,367, 2015-2016). The largest number of sessions was from London followed by Leicester during 2016-2017 however, what we *really really want* is the procedures to be used by more practitioners locally across LLR.

The LSCB Multi-agency Safeguarding Frontline Practitioner Group suggested that practitioners could do the following to be compliant to procedures:

- ✓ Ensure regular supervision and actively seek support from managers.
- ✓ Take personal responsibility.
- ✓ Have objectives in PDRs.
- ✓ Supervision.
- ✓ Reflection – Is it a task and finish experience.
- ✓ Be given time to read new legislation to ensure they are up to date.
- ✓ Ensure supervision takes place.
- ✓ Keep up to date with procedures.
- ✓ Read updates and share best practice.
- ✓ Ensure they access regular supervision for safeguarding and clinical supervision.
- ✓ Attend regular training.
- ✓ Share their learning.
- ✓ Ensure they regularly read procedures.
- ✓ Speak with colleagues and discuss cases.
- ✓ Have understanding and awareness of the procedures and seek advice if unsure.
- ✓ If unsure, ask a manager.
- ✓ Staff to ask for help and support.
- ✓ Staff to identify gaps in their knowledge and seek relevant training.

Safeguarding Training and Learning:

Do you know what you need and where to get further information?

The Leicester City and Leicestershire & Rutland Safeguarding Boards, work in partnership to support practitioners and volunteers in their work with children, young people and their families. All of our work aims to support best practice, and is underpinned from learning from research, and local and national reviews.

Visit the joint LSCB website [here](#).

Free Training & Learning! Free safeguarding training and learning events is available to those who work in Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland. A wide range of topics (CSE, neglect, Domestic Abuse, etc.) is covered and includes training for managers and supervisors. Find out more [here](#).

Trainers Network: The LSCBs co-ordinate a network and events for anyone who is involved in the delivery or development or safeguarding learning across Leicester, Leicestershire & Rutland. This can include those who deliver in-house safeguarding training to their settings. Visit the website [here](#).

The 3 C's of Safeguarding: Competence, Confidence, & Commitment: The LSCBs has committed to the use of a Competency Framework which supports a more flexible approach to training with different types of learning being recognised. By testing '**Competence**', '**Confidence and Commitment**' of the workforce, organisations now can evidence '**what difference**' learning and training is making to practice.

Find out more about the Framework [here](#).

Attend a briefing or recall session, find out more [here](#).

Use this [link](#) to access a useful document that is updated regularly.

Further information/Resources

Action for Children - Research, resources and information

<http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/policy-research>

Barnardos - Research and information including fact sheets

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/what_we_do/policy_research_unit/research_and_publications.htm

Sign up for regular Newsletter:

http://www.barnardos.org.uk/email_subscription_form.htm

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Safeguarding Children Boards' Procedures (staff can register to be alerted on updates)

<http://llrscb.proceduresonline.com/chapters/contents.html>

National Children's Bureau - Policy, research and information

National Working Group Network (NWG) – tackling child sexual exploitation

<http://www.nwgnetwork.org/>

National Referral Mechanism (NRM) - The Government's National Referral Mechanism guidance and referral forms can be accessed at the link below. The referral and assessment forms should be used to report potential victims of human trafficking

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/human-trafficking-victims-referral-and-assessment-forms>

NSPCC – Information, research, briefings and resources including the [National Repository of published Serious Case Reviews](#)

<https://www.nspcc.org.uk/>

Office of the Children's Commissioner for England -

Information, briefings and research on issues affecting children and young people, and includes the final report of the Office of the Children's Commissioner's *Inquiry into Child Sexual Exploitation in Gangs and Groups* (November 2013)

<http://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/>

Research in Practice - Research, information and resources to support evidence informed practice

<http://www.rip.org.uk/>

(Leicester City Council employees can register using their work email address)

Further information about the LSCB

Information about the LSCB including the Board, sub-groups, information for children & young people, parents & carers and professionals including news, procedures and useful link see the LSCB [website](#).

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